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Letter From The Editor

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Criminal Law. Often the first thing that comes to mind when you ask someone about criminal law is *Law & Order*, *CSI* or another made-for-TV version of the criminal justice system. The reality though is far more complex and controversial.

Criminal justice in this country reaches far beyond prosecution and defense, and the bulk of the action takes place not in the courtroom, but behind closed doors in the late-night writing of complaints and motions. Justice can take years - not an hour with commercials. The content of this issue reflects the complexity of this ever-changing field. Internet gambling represents billions of dollars of revenue for companies and Wesley Scott Ashton argues that rather than continuing to criminalize Internet gambling, the federal government should move towards regulation. Julie Rowe explores the highly charged and yet not often discussed issue of parricide, when children kill their parents, and the Battered Child Syndrome defense. The jurisprudence regarding when police may or may not question suspects before advising them of their Miranda rights is explored at length by Justin Heminger. All of these articles, touching very different aspects of criminal law, represent the varied and constantly changing landscape of the field.

*There are competing interests in our criminal justice system as evidenced by the inherent tension between the roles of prosecutors and defense attorneys. In our first issue, WCL Professor, and former director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Angela Davis, contributed an article arguing that prosecutorial misconduct is widespread and that the current criminal justice system has fostered "a culture in which prosecutors feel free to engage in misconduct." She called on the legal profession to take the lead in instituting meaningful reform. In this issue, Randall Eliason, a WCL adjunct Professor and former federal prosecutor, provides a response to Professor Davis's article. He argues that Professor Davis's general condemnation of prosecutors is an unfair characterization of thousands of ethical prosecutors who honor their job to, as Justice Sutherland described it in *Berger v. U.S.*, 295 U.S. 78, 88 (1935), see that "guilt not escape nor innocence suffer." The importance of this dialogue cannot be understated, and one of the goals of this Brief is to provide a forum where this and other such discussions can continue.*

The response to our first issue was overwhelming and has contributed to our growth this past year. In the last eight months, our distribution has increased, reaching new markets nationally, and our staff has doubled in size. Looking forward, we are publishing two issues this year and co-sponsoring with the WCL Business Law Brief a half-day symposium in February exploring current issues in corporate crime. This second issue of the Criminal Law Brief represents the tireless efforts of all those who contributed to our success - our authors, editors and dedicated staff - and I would be remiss in not acknowledging their invaluable contributions.

Laurita M. Denny
Editor-in-Chief